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U.S. Spy Shop Has Blown Its Top

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THE hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency sprawls thru the World. It maintains its own clandestine communications system with Washington and the world. And where brainstormers get rolling or the local station chief is on the make, nearly anything can happen.

The overblown agency frequently occupies an entire floor or more in an embassy and several separate buildings, plus its auxiliary installations. These range from small apartments used as letter drops (the Russians call their letter drops a "dubok," little oak tree) to lavish country estates and other goodies. With the overstaffing and lavishness of the Washington headquarters (\$45 million), why be prudent abroad?

PEANUTS

The CIA contingent often outnumber the entire State Department representation, and its secret, unaudited spending makes the State Department budget look like peanuts. If Gen. William J. Donovan's Office of Strategic Services could conduct our total World War II global espionage for \$125 million, what is the CIA doing with an estimated \$750 million a year?

The answer is that it's doing just largely what it pleases, namely, what pleases ambitious bureaucrats handling unaudited billions exactly as the same abuse of secrecy helped create the preposterous "overkill" nuclear materials stockpiling bonanza.

THE OPPONENTS

The Sino-Soviet competition consists of malign, vulgar and

competent creatures, utterly disciplined.

The first rule of an intelligence network is to keep it compact. If enemy agents penetrate your spy apparatus, its usefulness disappears instantly. It has then been transformed into a dangerous liability.

Impetuous selection and assignment of personnel, four supervisors doing the work of one, conflicting authority and sheer stupidity account for the infiltration by Castro agents of the CIA's Cuban network on such a scale that ghastly reprisals against Cuban heroes serving the agency grew (and remain) tragic beyond description.

REASONS

These are fundamental reasons why it is so important to heed congressional and other warnings that our spy shop has blown its top. This is why President Johnson can serve mightily by contracting the CIA in the same wise way he moved in against the "overkill" nuclear materials stockpiling bonanza.

The out-of-hand agency's operations are growing so all-inclusive that a lush mountain of armchair theorists, boisterous bureaucratic back-passers and assorted project-conceivers submerge its true task. Its scope and distractions endanger the fundamental security of the United States.

Our spy shop should return to its limited function, of espionage and intelligence vocation, and then do both of them hard jobs right, not as in Cuba, South Viet Nam, Cambodia, Zanzibar, Panama -- and where else?

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